

Ruling party wins Tunisian by-elections

TUNIS (AP) — Candidates from the ruling Destourian Socialist Party (PSD) won all five parliamentary seats in partial elections this weekend. Interior Minister Habib Ammar said Monday. The results of the Sunday elections assured the party's continued total control of the 120-seat national legislature, which has been monopolised by the PSD since Tunisia's independence from France 31 years ago. The elections were seen as a test of Tunisia's new president, Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali, who has promised to restore a democratic system of government. The turnout for the voting in four cities varied between 56 and 76.46 per cent, Ammar said, giving the official election results which in each case showed a wide victory margin for the winning candidate. Twenty-four candidates were running for the five seats, representing four districts: one in Tunis, one in the southern mining centre of Gafsa, one in Zaghouan, a rural community 60 kilometres south of Tunis, and two in Monastir. The main opposition party, the Movement of Social Democrats, boycotted the elections, saying it could not seek seats in a parliament "representing neither the reality nor the diversity" of Tunisian opinion.

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Their Majesties to visit Austria

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor will pay an official visit to Austria during the first half of February at the invitation of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and Mrs. Waldheim, the royal court announced Monday. Waldheim visited Jordan in July last year.

His Majesty congratulates Australia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to Australia's Governor General Ninian Martin Stephen congratulating him on the occasion of the second centennial of the founding of Australia. The King expressed pride in Jordanian-Australian ties and reiterated the Arab Nation's appreciation of Australia's concern over the causes of justice and peace in the Middle East. His Majesty also expressed hope that Australia would continue its positive efforts in this respect. The King also wished the governor general continuing good health and happiness and the Australian people further progress and prosperity.

King sends good wishes to India

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman congratulating him on the occasion of the anniversary of India's Republic Day. The King wished President Venkataraman and the Indian people further progress and prosperity.

Turkey returns captured Iranians

SEMDINLI (AP) — Turkey Monday returned to Iran 57 armed Iranians who were captured here two months ago on their way to Iraq, the independent Hurriyet news agency reported. The Iranians were driven to the border post in this southwestern township, where they were handed over to Iranian authorities, the dispatch said. The release was ordered by the Interior Ministry following negotiations between local officials from both countries, the agency said.

Soviet team begins visit to Nevada

LAS VEGAS (R) — A team of Soviet scientists began an historic visit to Nevada's desert nuclear test site Monday for a week of tours and meetings. The Soviet visit to the test site is part of a superpower agreement aimed at resolving differences over verification of treaties on limiting nuclear tests.

Sudan rebels claim downing MiG

NAIROBI (AP) — Sudanese rebels claimed Monday they shot down a MiG-23 fighter-bomber which the Khartoum government said crashed because of a technical failure. Radio SPLA, clandestine radio of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, said its southern-based guerrillas last Saturday hit two MiGs lured into an air ambush by false information from a double agent. "The MiG-23 that was shot and immediately crashed was brought down by an SPLA defence crew," said the radio. "The second fighter plane was seen warbling towards Juba with a trail of smoke."

INSIDE

- France and Italy deny reaching accord over minesweeping, page 2
- Senate endorses penal code amendments, page 3
- Palestinian uprising sparks thaw in Amal-FLO relations, page 4
- India bracing for tourist boom, page 5
- Napoli crushes Milan, page 6
- Bahrain reports higher offshore banking assets, page 7
- Ortega willing to relinquish power if people want, page 8

Israel continues policy of brutality against Arabs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel showed no signs of change in its new policy of "might, power and beatings" against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Monday and dozens of Arabs were reported severely injured in beatings by Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories.

Israel also came under growing criticism from American Jewry Monday over its "iron-fist" policy.

Heavy rains appeared to have brought down the level of anti-occupation protests. However, demonstrations and clashes were reported from at least half a dozen towns in the occupied territories Monday.

In the village of Salfit, under curfew for much of last week, Palestinians firedbombed an Israeli bus. No one was injured.

Thousands of Palestinian workers travelled to work in Israel from the Gaza Strip as the army temporarily lifted a curfew on the teeming, volatile Jabalya camp. Troops used sledghammers to force striking Gaza and West Bank merchants to open their second day.

On Sunday night, a bus was stoned outside the village of Abu Gosh 32 kilometres west of Jerusalem, Israel Radio reported. Police arrested three Arabs.

Arab protesters also stoned an Israeli-owned bank in Arab Jerusalem, smashing its front window, said Ibn Mustafa.

The King asked Baccouche to convey his greetings and best wishes to Ibn Ali, the Jordan

(Continued on page 3)

Libya said set to join Maghreb pact soon

ALGIERS (R) — Libya looks set to join a North African regional alliance linking neighbours Tunisia and Algeria with Mauritania in a severe blow to U.S. efforts to keep Tripoli isolated.

Authoritative Algerian diplomatic sources told Reuters Libya's membership of the pact would be ratified at a special summit of the heads of government of all four countries, possibly in early March.

The move is the second Libyan success in the area within a month and will increase growing U.S. concern over Libya's comeback, diplomats added.

As a concession to Libya, the summit would also set up a political committee to improve coordination and integration among the countries of the region.

Washington has watched with alarm as Libya has broken out of a diplomatic quarantine imposed since the U.S. air strike on Tripoli in April 1986.

Libyan membership of the existing tripartite pact crowns almost a year of intense diplomatic activity in the region, and will be presented as a major step towards realising the goal of a greater Maghreb.

The creation of a North African common market is a central feature of Algerian policy. President Chadli Benjedid argues the countries of the region are interdependent and together would have formidable muscle in trade negotiations.

He added: "In some respects it's a little artificial to divide the debate into two. But I'm sure that some people will wish to talk more about one than the other. What the resolution will cover will only be determined when we settle down to draft it."

If there were a second part to the debate, it would probably take place next month, he said. But this would depend on the character of this week's debate and resolution.

"I can't say we will deal with the short-term problems now and the long-term problems later because in many ways the solutions to the short-term problems lie in the long-term," he added.

He said he had received no word of any intended visit to the United Nations by foreign ministers who took part in an Arab League meeting in Tunis over the weekend on the situation in the occupied territories.

The Tunis meeting set up a seven-member committee comprising the foreign ministers of Jordan, Algeria, Iraq, Syria and Tunisia, as well as the Arab League Secretary General, Chadli Klibi, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's foreign affairs spokesman, Farouq Kaddoumi.

The charge d'affaires is named as Abu Bakr Kanna in the latest official list of diplomats in Legos.

An unidentified man at the Libyan embassy, who said he was a local employee, said Monday that Kanna was the charge d'affaires and was dead, but would not elaborate.

A senior African diplomatic source said he had heard informally about the killing but was awaiting confirmation from Nigeria's External Affairs Ministry.

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His Majesty, in talks with Baccouche, stresses need for Mideast and Gulf peace based on U.N. resolutions

King receives Tunisian message

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a message from Tunisian President Zein Al Abidine Ibn Ali dealing with bilateral relations and voicing Tunisia's keenness on further bolstering these relations and supporting His Majesty's efforts aimed at achieving Arab solidarity and boosting joint Arab action.

The message was delivered to the King by Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, who arrived here earlier Monday on a three-day visit to Jordan. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Tunisian Ambassador in Amman Said Ibn Mustafa.

"Jordan's endeavours, especially in light of the Amman summit resolutions, have won support by international forums, particularly the European Com-

munity (EC), the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)," His Majesty was quoted as saying by Petra.

The King stressed that the current anti-occupation uprising in the occupied territories was clearest evidence of the need for speeding up efforts for ending the Israeli occupation of Arab territories through an international peace conference on the Middle East to be attended by all parties concerned including the five permanent members of the U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

On the Iran-Iraq war, the King emphasised the urgent need for exerting Arab and international efforts to end the conflict by enforcing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and exerting pressure on Iran to submit to the Security Council.

"Jordan should realise that it will not win the war by continuing its aggression against Iraq," the King said.

King also voiced Jordan's keenness in boosting Jordanian-Tunisian relations in all fields.

During the visit the Tunisian premier will discuss with Rifai

Ibn Ali confers with Masri in Tunis

TUNIS (Agencies) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali Monday received Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri who conveyed to the president greetings from His Majesty King Hussein. During the meeting Ibn Ali and Masri reviewed Jordanian-Tunisian relations and means of promoting economic and cultural ties. They also reviewed Arab affairs in general and the situation in the occupied Arab territories in particular. Later Masri said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordan and Tunisia were in agreement on joint efforts for promoting cooperation in all fields. The foreign minister was in Tunis to take part in a meeting of Arab League foreign ministers. The meeting discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories and decided on a plan of action to support the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories. It called for the setting up of an Arab foreign ministers' committee for international contacts towards settling the Palestinian problem through a U.N.-sponsored peace conference. The committee's members are the foreign ministers of Iraq and Syria as well as those of Algeria, Tunisia and Jordan and a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).



His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives a message from Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche (Petra photo)

and senior officials ways of strengthening and promoting Jordanian-Tunisian relations in various fields.

(Continued on page 3)

Security Council to meet Wednesday

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council will meet Wednesday to consider Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's report on the situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the United Nations announced Monday.

In the report, issued last Friday, the secretary general recommended a concerted effort to persuade Israel to accept de jure (by right) the applicability in the occupied territories of the Geneva Convention on the treatment of civilians in wartime.

He said also that Israel should "correct its practices" in order to comply fully with the convention.

In his report, based in part on a fact-finding mission to the strife-torn territories by Under-Secretary General Marrack Goulding, Perez de Cuellar renewed the call for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

He said the underlying problem in the territories could only be resolved through a political settlement.

One council member told Reuters

the debate beginning Wednesday would focus mainly on the immediate situation in the occupied territories, leaving until a later date a further debate on a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem.

Council President Crispin Tickell of Britain told reporters all members wanted a "serious, constructive debate both on the short-term problems, which are very vivid in all our minds, but also the long-term problems and the desire to reach an equitable, long-term settlement."

Asked whether this week's debate would result in a resolution on the short-term issues, he replied: "We shall see. It hasn't yet been decided."

As a concession to Libya, the summit would also set up a political committee to improve coordination and integration among the countries of the region.

Washington has watched with alarm as Libya has broken out of a diplomatic quarantine imposed since the U.S. air strike on Tripoli in April 1986.

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Iraqi leader praises Amman summit, underlines need to preserve its spirit

By Mahmoud Al Kayed
Al Ra'i Chief Editor

BAGHDAD — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has praised the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman as a unique opportunity for frank discussions and emphasised the need to preserve and respect the spirit of agreements reached at the gathering of Arab heads of state.

"The Amman summit was totally unlike any previous summit because in Amman the Arab leaders involved themselves in open and very useful dialogue essential for building strong inter-Arab relations," President Hussein Sunday told the editors of the three Jordanian Arabic dailies — Al Ra'i, Al Dustour and Sawt Al Shabab.

"The dialogue held in Amman

stands they had been adopting prior to the summit."

"At the Amman summit, Arab leaders focused their attention on achieving the minimum level of consensus and agreement and the general idea was that no Arab country should undertake any action which could harm the other or Arab national interests," the president said.

"If certain Arabs cannot contribute towards confronting the common dangers or play a constructive role in that respect at least they should not ally themselves with the enemies of the Arab Nation," he said.

"Statements by certain Arab countries that they have strategic relations with Iran at a time when Iran pursues its aggression on Iraq and other Arab states can only be considered as open support for Iran at the expense of the Arab Nation," Hussein said.

"Iraq is not asking help from anyone because Iraq is not weak

(Continued on page 3)

W. Germany endorses Mubarak's proposal

CHANCELLOR said.

Last week, Mubarak unveiled a regional peace plan under which Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would renounce violent opposition for at least six months while Israel stopped further provocative Jewish settlements in the territories and accepted a peace conference.

"In the EC, we want in our coming talks to set in motion a process to support this initiative," Kohl said.

Mubarak held four hours of talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Richard von Weizsaecker in Bonn on a peace plan that he will present to Britain, the United States, France, Italy and Morocco over the next 12 days.

Kohl told reporters after meeting Mubarak that the European Community (EC), currently chaired by West Germany, would encourage moves towards an international Middle East peace conference at its Feb. 11-12 summit in Brussels.

France, Italy deny accord on Gulf minesweeping

PARIS (R) — The French Navy denied Monday that it had reached an accord with Britain and Italy to work jointly to sweep mines out of the Gulf.

Italy had earlier denied a Washington Post report that the three countries had agreed to coordinate operations and to keep at least five minesweepers on duty at any one time.

The report, published Sunday, said U.S. administration officials hoped the accord would blunt congressional criticism of the cost burden of U.S. operations in the Gulf.

"There is no agreement and the situation has not changed," a French Navy spokesman said. "The French Navy is acting for national interests."

The commander of the Gulf fleets had been in contact since the operation began last September, but this was only to share information and avoid mishaps, the spokesman said.

Three French mine-clearing vessels began operating outside the Gulf in the Sea of Oman in mid-September, finding eight mines off the port of Khor Fakkan. The navy believes the area is now clear of mines.

One minehunter is still in or near the Gulf, while two minesweepers have withdrawn to Djibouti, according to the navy.

France withdrew from the integrated command of the North

Spices of the Western European Union, a defence-oriented organisation which groups Belgium, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands.

The officials said Belgium, Britain and The Netherlands appeared to be coordinating most closely in the Gulf in view of the prospect of them reducing their naval strengths there.

French minister in UAE

Meanwhile a senior French envoy has arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to review trade prospects and underline France's commitment to help project shipping in the Gulf.

French embassy sources said

Finance Minister Edouard Balladur would discuss ways to bolster trade and economic cooperation with the UAE leaders.

Balladur, who is also deputy prime minister, flew in from Saudi Arabia where he ruled out any reduction in the naval force which France maintains in the Gulf to escort merchant ships.

He told reporters in Riyadh: "The action of France remains constant. We have taken a position on this issue... and we are determined to follow through."

The French aircraft carrier

Clemenceau and a small group of escort ships have been on station near the Gulf since last July.

Austrian firm says arms may have been sent to Iran

VIENNA (R) — Austria's biggest company said Monday that its weapon manufacturing subsidiary might have made illegal arms exports to Iran.

Austrian authorities have for months been investigating charges that 140 cannons worth \$300 million were delivered by Voest-Alpine's Noricum subsidiary to Iran in the spring of 1985.

The charges were first made in the Austrian news magazine *Basta*.

Voest-Alpine General Director

Heribert Lewinsky told Austrian radio the preliminary results of the company's own internal inquiry had "hardened the suspicion that there were direct Noricum weapons deals with Iran."

The state-owned concern had repeatedly denied any such deals. Austrian law forbids export of arms to warring nations and Iran has been at war with Iraq since 1980.

Lewinsky said the preliminary conclusions had been reached after the internal probe found a bond guaranteeing a weapons contract delivery. He said he did not know who signed the bond or was responsible for the deal.

BEIRUT (R) — Workers with bulldozers have started clearing two battered refugee camps in Beirut after a three-year siege and Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia have stopped blockading a third Lebanese camp.

Teams from the Hariri Foundation — a charity run by Rafik Hariri, a businessman friend of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia — began clearing rubble from the Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila camps in mainly Muslim west Beirut.

Both camps were badly damaged during the sieges by Amal, Lebanon's largest Muslim militia. It withdrew from positions around the two camps Wednesday after Amal chief Nabil Berri announced an end to the blockade.

In the port town of Tyre 80 kilometres south of Beirut, Amal militiamen in olive-green fatigues ended a 14-month-old siege of Rashidiyyeh Camp, home for some 17,000 Palestinians.

Witnesses said scores of Palestinian women, children and men ventured out of the camp for the first time since October 1986.

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The EC Commission said in a statement it had agreed an urgent payment of 185,000 European Currency Units (\$228,000) to buy and distribute food, in particular for children.

It said it had also agreed urgent food aid of 500 tonnes of cereals

and 55 tonnes of milk powder, worth 250,000 ECUs (\$307,000).

The Community had already agreed aid of 200,000 ECUs (\$246,000) at the end of December after an earlier UNRWA appeal.

This donation is part of an on-going European Community development aid programme in favour of the Palestinian people.

Community aid channelled through UNRWA amounted to JD 15 million in 1987 and JD 13.5 million in 1986.

Czechoslovakian embassy in Amman said the current events in the occupied Arab territories

"are a clear gesture of the Palestinian people's desire to see an end to the 20 years of Israeli occupation of the Arab land and for restoring their legitimate rights."

The statement added that Israeli intransigence has aggravated the situation in the occupied territories and affected negatively the international relations.

"Therefore an urgent political solution should be found lest the situation further deteriorates."

Pressure mounts on West to pull back Gulf minesweepers

By Stephen Jukes
Reuter

BAHRAYN — Pressure is mounting on Western governments to cut costs of their Gulf naval forces by withdrawing minesweepers and the indications are that some will leave soon.

The waterway has been declared free of mines. Red and yellow warning buoys have been plucked from the sealanes and the crews of about 20 Western and Soviet minehunters have been enjoying home leave.

But Western military sources in the region said decisions to pull out the minesweepers would not be taken lightly for fear of weakening political support for Gulf Arab states which feel threatened by Iran.

A complete withdrawal would appear to be out of the question for purely tactical reasons, they said.

"As soon as you drop your guard or start to send vessels home, Iran will push a few new mines over the side," said one Western naval officer. "The threat will never go away."

Now all minefields are swept, military planners are examining whether increased co-operation among Western navies can cut costs and allow some vessels to leave.

The sources said U.S., British, Dutch, Belgian, Italian and French forces might be spared

back in coming months, leaving a core of specialised vessels to form a military and political deterrent to any new mine-laying by Iran.

Ideally, Western nations would like that deterrent to be backed up more strongly by the small navies of the Gulf states which have lacked modern minesweeping expertise.

Military sources said Saudi Arabia was now in the market for as many as eight specialised vessels in a deal worth up to \$50 million. The order appeared to have taken priority over Riyadh's earlier ambitions to buy eight submarines.

British, Dutch and Belgian vessels worked in close co-operation to sweep a minefield in the central Gulf late last year, but some may soon leave.

In London, a Defence Ministry spokesman declined comment on reports in the Times and Guardian newspapers on Thursday that the nations would each halve their forces, leaving Britain with two minesweepers and Belgium and the Netherlands with one each.

Italy's defence ministry sources in Rome said the minesweeper *Vieste* and support vessel *Anteo* were pulled out of the Gulf.

France has redeployed its force, keeping one minehunter in the immediate Gulf region and pulling back two minesweepers to near Djibouti in the Gulf of Aden.

But Minister of State for Economy Edouard Balladur, who started a Middle East tour, told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) there could be no question of reducing France's naval force as long as its merchant ships

are already taking shape:

— U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, on a tour of U.S. warships and Gulf states earlier this month, prepared the ground for pulling out minehunting helicopters and their carrier, the *Okinawa*, diplomatic sources said. Ocean-going vessels sweeping northern Gulf sealanes were likely to stay.

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Jordan Times

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Arabs of Palestine, unite

THE decision of Abdul Wahab Darawsheh, the Israeli Arab member of the Knesset, to quit the Labour Party and form an independent Arab party is among the most far-reaching results of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Darawsheh has attributed his decision to quit the ranks of the Labour Party to the shameful way the party has handled the uprising. Obviously, he had in mind, most of all, the Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, whose iron-fist policy in the occupied Arab territories drew harsh criticism from the four corners of the world, including the Israeli Peace Now movement.

What is outstanding about such a bold step by Darawsheh, and through him the Palestinians of Galilee, is that it purports to seek a stronger political voice for the Arabs of Israel, and to make them a political force to reckon with. It is a well known fact that there are over 350,000 Arab voters in Israel, whose electoral power is scattered throughout the Israeli political spectrum. They lack cohesion and effectiveness, and often are taken for granted, or, worse, for a ride, by Israeli political parties. When the Arabs of Israel have access to an independent political party, such a party will surely have a key place in any coalition government in Israel. It will have the power to make or break many Israeli governments, as Israeli splinter parties have done for years. At face value, an independent Arab political party may weaken the Labour Party, which draws considerable political support from Arab voters. On balance, however, an independent Arab party can strengthen the forces within Israelis that are genuinely committed to ending the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to striking an honourable and durable peace with the Arabs. An independent Arab party also would keep close watch on the Labour Party, which is ostensibly committed to the international peace conference idea, yet behaves in a manner repugnant to the spirit of such a conference. The Labour Party is also beset by many internal quarrels, with the forces of Rabin trying to outflank the supporters of the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shimon Peres. The decision to form an independent Arab political party in Israel has much merit, particularly in an era when Palestinians need to have greater impact upon domestic politics in Israel.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: League calls on U.N.

THE Arab League council has ended a two-day discussion of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's repressive measures against the Arab people. The council's main result was in the form of a call on the U.N. Security Council to shoulder its responsibility towards the situation in the Arab land and also Israel's defiance of the will of the international community and the international principles and laws. The Arab uprising which has swept all of occupied Palestine opened up a new chance for the international community to see the truth and the facts about the situation in the Israeli-held Arab land. The uprising and Israel's response reminded the world of South Africa's rulers and their treatment of the black population under their rule. The U.N. Security Council which has condemned Israel's practices should now take sanctions against the Jewish state and force it to succumb to the will of the international community, not to leave its resolutions unimplemented and no more than ink and paper. The Arab League which met at foreign minister level has decided to form a committee to follow up with the Security Council the question of imposing sanctions and implementing U.N. resolutions. The Arabs' long experience with Israel has shown that the Jewish state will go on violating international principles as long as it continues to receive backing from certain powers and escape Security Council sanctions.

Al Dustour: League forms committee

THE Arab League council has formed a committee to work out a pan-Arab strategy aimed at implementing resolutions related to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This was a pan-Arab decision designed to help regain Arab rights and support the Palestinian people's uprising. The Arab League council which also condemned Israel's measures against the Arab people reflected the feelings of all Arab masses everywhere. But it should be said that all appeals to the U.N. Security Council and all condemnations of Israel's practices will do the Arabs nothing unless they are backed by action and practical, concrete steps that can really support the Arab people under Israel's rule and alleviate their sufferings. We look to the Arab League and the committee's future moves with hope, and we look forward to practical action on the part of the U.N. Security Council for the implementation of its resolutions. The current uprising should be given all the support and backing, and the Arabs now have all the opportunities for following up measures and intensifying contacts at all levels to see an end to the sufferings of the Arab people.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan rallies support for uprising

THE uprising of the Arab people in the occupied territories acquired the interest of all world governments and drew support from all peace loving people. Jordan, for its part, has intensified its contacts and consultations with Arab and foreign countries to put an end to Israel's repressive measures and provide help to the Arab people of Palestine. Jordan which is keen on rallying all possible support for the Arab people under Israel's rule is striving to enable the Arab Nation, the international community and all peace loving people of the world to put an end to Israel's intransigence and its rejection of peace. Jordan's efforts are now focusing on convening the proposed international conference that would bring about real peace. For this reason, Jordan has been prompt in expressing support for the Soviet proposal, calling for a Security Council meeting to prepare for the conference. Jordan's speech delivered at the Arab League meeting also underlines this country's keenness on the attainment of peace and bringing justice to the occupied land.

Uprising sparks thaw in Amal-Palestinian ties

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuter

BEIRUT — Lebanon's bitter "camps war," in which 2,500 people were killed in battles between the country's two most powerful factions, finally ended on Jan. 24 as a result of the anti-Israeli uprising in the occupied territories.

"The Shi'ite-Palestinian war has ended forever," declared Nabil Berri, leader of the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia which had fought for three years to curb the military power of Palestinian fighters.

Bearded Amal fighters in olive-green fatigues reopened the last Palestinian camp on Jan. 24. They packed their belongings and moved away from Rashidiyah near the southern town of Tyre, as they had left two besieged Beirut camps a week earlier.

"The uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has unified the two sides. Their national (Arab) feelings have overcome

their political differences," said one analyst.

"For once they realised that they both were losers in a war which has drained their military capabilities."

Another analyst cautioned, however, that the euphoria might not last. "Only time will tell whether the understanding can survive," he said.

A Palestinian source told Reuters: "Israel has been a common enemy for both of us. We share the same fate and ordeal. It has bombed, killed and displaced Palestinians as well as Shi'ites without discrimination."

He said the thaw in relations was aimed at "unifying ranks and directing their guns at Israel instead of each other."

Berri announced on January 16 that he would lift Amal's siege of the three camps in honour of Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied territories, where Israeli troops have killed at least 39 people since December 9.

Berri, also Lebanon's justice

minister, told reporters on Jan. 23: "A new history has started between Amal and the Palestinians. Even if the Palestinians want to fight us, we will not fight them. The war is over. The past is over."

Relations between Shi'ites and Palestinians had been strained since 1976 when Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters used Shi'ite villages in South Lebanon to attack Israel, triggering Israeli retaliation.

Before Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, which was aimed at crushing the Palestinians' military power, the fighters fought fierce battles with Amal in a cluster of southern villages.

Amal later laid siege to the camps, saying that most of the fighters forced to leave Lebanon by the Israelis had returned.

Analysts said the opportunities for the Palestinians to reassert their strength would be limited as Syrian troops had moved into the former Amal positions around the Beirut camps and Lebanese police would go to Rashidiyah.

Syria, the main power-broker in Lebanon and Amal's backer,

had urged reconciliation between the two sides to unify their ranks before Lebanon's presidential election in August.

Witnesses at Rashidiyah, home for about 17,000 Palestinians, said about 200 cheering men, women and children ventured out after the Amal fighters left and ended their isolation.

The "camps war" shattered

both the sprawling settlements and nearby Shi'ite areas. Since last April, Amal had maintained a partial siege, allowing women and children to leave for food and medicine.

Although officials of both sides announced an end to the war, it has left deep psychological and physical wounds.

"The shelling, blockade, bloodshed and destruction cannot be wiped out overnight. The long confidence needs time to be restored," said Um Mohammad, 46, a mother of five, at her cramped one-room shack at Rashidiyah.

"We're tired and sick of war. We had had enough of suffering. We want to live in peace... We just can't live on the bad memories," said Abu Khalil.

The walls of his home were plastered with pictures of two sons killed in the war. A third, crippled by a shell, sat beside him.

"Hatred and bitterness will lead us to peace," he said.

Israel battling to restore tarnished image

By Ruth Sinai
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Israel is battling to protect its public image in the United States, pitting articulate envoys against nightly television pictures of bullets and tear gas in Israeli-occupied territories.

For the past six weeks, the major television networks have devoted extensive daily coverage to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where Israeli troops quelling violent protests have shot and killed 38 Palestinians.

The clashes — said to be the worst since Israel occupied the Arab territories in the 1967 Mideast war — could erode support for the Jewish state among some 6 million American Jews and tarnish Israel's image in the United States as an "underdog nation surrounded by Arab foes."

Some U.S. news media have

recently been drawing comparisons between Israel's suppression of the 1.4 million Palestinians under its occupation and the segregation policies of South Africa.

ABC television devoted a five-minute segment of its prime-time nightly news show to a point-by-point comparison between the restrictions imposed by South Africa on its black majority and by Israel on the Palestinian minority.

"The Israelis and the South African government do have one thing undeniably in common: They both rule over large populations which have inferior status," said anchorman Peter Jennings in his introduction.

The piece drew a rebuke from the Israeli foreign ministry and from Israel's ambassador in Washington, Moshe Arad.

Some newspapers also have drawn parallels between Israeli

and South African tactics.

In an effort to combat damage to Israel's image, Arad flew to New York this week for a round of meetings with major television network executives and journalists.

"I told them that by airing the (ABC) piece, they gave credence to the attempt by our Arab adversaries to portray us as a pariah state," Arad said in an interview.

In addition, the director-general of Israel's foreign ministry, Yossi Beilin, flew to Washington and New York for meetings with senior news media representatives, as well as American Jewish leaders.

"There is nothing less fair than comparing Israel with South Africa. Israel is an open democracy, the only one in the Middle East," he told reporters.

Beilin also met with 10 Israeli

consuls stationed around the United States to boost morale

and discuss public relations tactics.

Israel's U.N. ambassador, Benjamin Netanyahu, went on television to express his frustration. "I think that the American media has covered Israel and the situation there a little like the way the Soviet media has covered America," he said.

"They show a picture of a few homeless people on a sidewalk and they say, 'this is America.' What you're seeing is the tail-end of the story. You're not seeing the full story."

But the Israeli protestations appear to have had little effect.

"There's not much they can say. It's not a matter of public relations, it's a matter of an untenable reality," said Joyce Starr, head of the Near East programme at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington Research and Study group.

Starr, who has just returned from a visit to Israel, said Israelis should be concerned "not about how it looks, but what it's doing to their society and how it's affecting their friends abroad."

Americans have had high expectations of Israel, partly because Israel has set such high moral standards for itself. "Let us be a light unto the nation," said Israel's first prime minister David Ben-Gurion, borrowing from the Bible.

"But how can you say you're a light unto anyone when your sons are shooting and clubbing (Palestinians) refugees?" said Starr.

Marvin Kalb, director of the press and politics centre at Harvard, said Americans view Israel as "the Western-style democracy it is, and expect the same standards they would from their own country. That's not fair. The United States is a mighty, secure power. Israel is surrounded by

enemies."

Kalb, formerly a television network correspondent, also said the effect of television images "has a resonance above and beyond the picture and the event themselves."

Israeli representatives are frustrated by this impact. "How do you fight those pictures?" Even the best information campaign is no match," said Israeli embassy spokesman Yossi Gal.

Watching the nightly TV footage, one would think the Israeli-Palestinian problem began on December 8, he said.

Adds ambassador Arad: "The focus on the violence is obsessive because it makes better footage. You don't see anything about the fact that Israel is trying to prevent the Lebanonisation of Gaza or to fight the Islamic fundamentalism in the West Bank. All you see are bullets, stones and firebombs."

trudge back to the camp.

"The people have decided to go on with the resistance despite the many pressures by the soldiers on them," he says. There is very good cooperation and help to get food. The people in the camp, especially the young people, have established loyalty committees who bring in food secretly from outside.

"The young people are organised to fight the soldiers if necessary. If the soldiers are in a house beating women or children then someone will call out 'Allah Akbar' (God is great) and the young people come and throw stones and start a demonstration to distract the soldiers' attention."

The loyalty committee members slip out of camp along the secret paths to arrange for food donations. "Nabir" says it is given freely by people who want to show their support for those in the camps.

Where the old railway lines slashes across the main north-south road near El Bureij and Nuseirat camps, the food donations are dropped off. It is a quick, slick and noisy operation.

A van or car slides to a halt and pita bread in plastic bags, potatoes, tomatoes, and other vegetables are thrown out. Women come running to collect the food, cram it into shopping bags, and

— The Times.

The Gulf: Rules may not change, but interpretations do

By Richard Pyle
The Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — By clarifying its navy's "rules of engagement" in the war-torn Gulf, France has served notice that Iran's gunboats may no longer attack neutral shipping with impunity.

France's naval commander in the Indian Ocean region, which includes the Gulf, told reporters this week that French warships attempting to offer "humanitarian assistance" to unarmed neutral vessels under attack might fire if the warships came within range of their guns.

While diplomatic sources said this represented no change in the guidelines, it showed what every Gulf naval officer knows — that rules governing operations are subject to on-the-spot interpretation, according to circumstances.

Confusion over the rules of engagement appears inherent in the efforts by the U.S., French and other Western navies in the Gulf to sail a delicate line between protecting ships and becoming involved in hostilities themselves.

Rear Adm. Guy Labouerie said France would not try to provoke the Iranians, but in answering distress calls, "there are some consequences of the Iran-Iraq war that we will not accept at sea."

French diplomatic sources expressed exasperation that Labouerie's remarks were taken to mean that France was adopting a get-tough approach toward Iran and asking others to do the same.

"Nothing has changed," said one informed French source who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The policy has been in effect for the past six months and it remains the same."

He said: "We are speaking about it now because of what happened last weekend."

In that incident, the French destroyer Duplex went to the aid of a Liberian flag tanker under attack by Iranian gunboats.

It warned them if they did not break off and the Iranians withdrew, the French said.

One French source said the Duplex was attempting to aid a ship in trouble, as required by maritime law.

"The difference is that when we go to aid a ship, we have guns," he said. "And if we come within range of the others' guns, we might shoot."

Diplomatic observers said the French action was probably also motivated by a recent increase in Iranian attacks and interceptions of foreign ships in the southern

For the past week he has not changed his clothes. "There is no point. We stay indoors reading books and listening to the news. If anyone just looks outside the soldiers can come and beat him. If anyone goes in the street they catch them. I saw them take a six-year-old then beat him to make him tell where his father was. His father was dead but still they beat him."

"Each day the curfew lifts for the shops that are run out. The U.N. emergency rations only supply the children. But life is going on and the spirit of resistance seems to be growing daily as the well organised 'smugglers' bring in the food.

With one of the "smugglers" as a guide I slipped into the camp through the Israeli security corridor, which has been put up to try to seal the camp off from the outside

India bracing for the tourist boom



Kerala's beautiful coastline — palms, sea and sand

United News of India

THE mystique of the Orient has bounced back. India is once again a coveted destination on the itinerary of the international tourists. By present reckoning the coming years will see a tourist boom in India.

Statistically, though, India at present has a very small slice of the total tourist cake — just about 0.5 per cent. But the size of the cake is getting bigger, and so is India's share of it. Not only that. India is also having a bit of icing on the cake. Duration-wise, tourists coming to India have perhaps the longest stay compared to any other country in the world. On an average a tourist spends 28 days in India, a flattering tribute to the many splendid things that India is.

India has the unique distinction of combining a remarkable historical and cultural heritage with marvellous scenic spots ranging from the majestic Himalayan peaks to a coastline of 3,000 kilometres dotted with some of

the finest beaches in the world.

The sculptural spectacle of the sun temple at Konark, the ethereal beauty of the Taj, the awe-inspiring frescoes of Ajanta and Ellora, the finely crafted marvels of Khajuraho, the rock temples of Thanjavur, the forts and palaces of Rajasthan — these are only some of the names which have attracted tourists from all over the world in the recent past.

Add to it the numerous game sanctuaries and national parks, the new destinations highlighting lesser-known cultural and historical centres as well as adventure-related excursions and breathtaking variety of India's customs and rituals, languages and folk arts, handicrafts and artefacts — and one is left admiring the "glory that is India."

In a silent way, Indian tourism is going through a sea-change. Hitherto the most popular tourist circuit in India has been what is known as, the Golden Triangle, i.e. Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. No doubt "Taj" is unparalleled for its romance and beauty but India

is more than just "Taj Mahal."

Some of the areas which earlier did not get foreign tourists because of absence of infrastructure have now been provided with basic infrastructure and are increasingly becoming popular with tourists from overseas. A case in point is the Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar which is attracting a number of tourists from Japan, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

On this circuit are located places like Kushinagar, Pipavaha, Saraswati, Raigarh, Nalanda Gaya — places associated with the life of Buddha.

Another upcoming stretch is the picturesque state of Orissa which could not exploit its touristic potential because of inadequate infrastructure. Work on expansion and strengthening of Bhubaneswar airport is under way and by 1989 the air port will be able to handle charters and wide-bodied aircraft. Once that comes through the beaches and monuments of Orissa would be within easy reach of foreign tourists.

Similarly, on the adventure-tourism front a number of initiatives taken recently have started yielding results in the form of increasing influx of tourists.

After Ganga, river rafting has



Women in Mundu Veshti — the traditional dress of Kerala, southern Indian state

been introduced in Testa which flows through Sikkim and north Bengal. Plans are under way to introduce water sports in Brahmaputra and Chambal rivers as well. Chilka lake in Orissa and Salal lake in Jammu and Kashmir — another two water bodies are attracting attention. A water sports institute is coming up in Godavari and its commissioning is expected to give a boost to water sports throughout the country.

Heli-skiing

The year 1988 will see the debut of heli-skiing in India.

Decks have been cleared for introduction of heli-skiing in Gulmarg (Jammu and Kashmir state), Manali in Himachal Pradesh state and Uttar Kashi in Uttar Pradesh state are other two areas which are being considered for introduction of winter sports.

Earlier in 1980-81 when a number of hotel projects were cleared

for Delhi, detractors of the move were legion who thought that Delhi will have a glut of hotels and that there would be no takers for so many hotel rooms. They have been resoundingly proved wrong for today hotels are doing well in Delhi. Similar is the occupancy situation in respect of hotels in Agra, Jaipur, Calcutta and Bombay.

Thus while there is realisation, in full measure, of the importance of tourism as an instrument of economic and social transformation, the requirements of infrastructure with those of environment is not being lost sight of. Given the pace of development of infrastructure and growing popularity of India as a tourist destination the nineties decade seems all set to be a "Destination — India" decade.

While planning these projects and constructions, due care is being taken of the environmental

fall-out. Certain guidelines have been laid down in respect of constructions along the sea-shore which put restrictions on distance from high-tide line as well as height of the structure. Similarly, tourism infrastructure in the Andaman Islands and Lakshadweep islands is being planned in strict conformity with the requirements of ecology and environment.

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Bubbling over in a healthy market

The head of a leading sparkling water spring claims that there is never a recession in his industry — the product keeps flowing and the public keeps on buying. Paul Bettis meets Gustav Leven, the publicity-shy chairman of Perrier.

PARIS — It will go down in history as one of the great missed opportunities of British industry this century. After inventing the green, club-shaped Perrier bottle nearly 85 years ago, the British owners of the famous sparkling water spring in southern France sold the business back to the French just after the second world war.

The man who bought it was a former Paris stockbroker, Mr. Gustav Leven. Over the last 40 years, he has transformed Perrier into an enviable profitable international company, described by some as the IBM of the mineral water industry.

"When I first visited the Perrier plant at Vergeze, it was a shambles. There were broken bottles everywhere. Everything was done by hand. But I immediately thought this was a golden opportunity," said 73-year-old Mr. Leven in a rare interview.

"It struck me at the time that all you had to do is take the water out of the ground and then sell it for more than the price of wine, milk or for that matter oil. I decided I had to buy the business myself and never sell it ever again."

Since then, concentrating with single-minded determination on the business he knows best, Mr. Leven has continued to expand Perrier's dominant position in the world mineral water market, at times against the advice of economists and management consultants.

With nearly 55 per cent of the French bottled water market and between 25-30 per cent of the U.S. market, Perrier is now the undisputed leader of the mineral water business. Today, the company exports its green bottles to 120 countries around the world and controls a wide range of other springs in France, including Vichy-St. Yorre and the still water springs of Contrexxeville of Volvic. It also owns a number of springs in the U.S., with colourful names such as Calistoga, Great Bear, Oasis, Ozarka, Poland Spring and Zephyrhills. After its \$40 million acquisition of the U.S. Arrowhead Drinking Water company from Beatrice Foods last year, Perrier has seen its U.S. annual sales double to nearly \$500 million.

In the U.K., where Mr. Leven also sees enormous potential for development, Perrier has recently acquired Buxton spring in Derbyshire. The U.K. market for mineral water is growing by about 50 per cent a year. After the U.S., it is the second most promising new market for bottled water," says Mr. Leven.

Perrier's success is shown in the steady rise of sales and profits during the past few years. From FF2.4 billion (\$439 million) in 1980, sales have grown to nearly FF12 billion in 1986. Net profits have also increased at about the same rate from FF78 million to FF312 million during the same period.

Mr. Leven's involvement with Perrier started by accident. "In 1946 I was working for my father as a stockbroker when he asked me to find a buyer for Perrier which the British wanted to sell," Leven recalls. "I telephoned Sam Bronfman, the Seagram chairman, whom I knew quite well, and asked him if he was interested. It was February and he told me: 'I will come in the fall, keep it for me.'" Leven took the answer to mean that Bronfman was not interested.

A few months later, he decided to visit the famous spring, which had been owned by Lord Harnsworth, the newspaper publisher, until 1936 and subsequently by other British interests. "After seeing the potential of the business, I bought the spring with four close friends and we took it over in 1948," explained Leven.

The little green bottles were marketed with the irresistible slogan: "Perrier — the taste of France."

gan "the champagne of table waters" and sales in France began to grow. In 1948, the spring employed 1,000 people to produce about 10 million bottles a year. By 1952, it was producing 150 million bottles.

After heavy investment to achieve maximum automation — including not only a modern, high-technology bottling plant but also a glass-manufacturing facility on the site of the Vergeze spring — Perrier production has shot up to 1.2 billion a year. If all the other bottled water operations subsequently acquired are included, the group's total production has reached 4 billion bottles a year.

After transforming Perrier's position at home, Mr. Leven turned his attention to the U.S. "When I started looking at the American market in 1976-77, everyone told me it was madness," he says. "I paid consultants to prepare market studies and all their conclusions were that it was not worth expanding in the U.S. The Americans, they said, will never drink mineral water and the market simply did not exist in the U.S."

But Mr. Leven was in New York at the time and noticed that there seemed to be no alternative to the alcohol or sugary soft drinks such as Coca-Cola except for iced tap water with a strong flavour of disinfectant. "I concluded that there was clearly room for Perrier in the U.S. — whatever the consultants might have said."

Launched with great show business éclat, Perrier soon became a fashionable alternative to the traditional cocktail for diet- and health-conscious Americans. Perrier today accounts for about 85 per cent of all imported water in the U.S. In spite of the dollar's weakness, Mr. Leven says that the U.S. bottled water market continues to offer big growth opportunities for Perrier. Over the next five years, he expects the market to grow by at least 20 per cent a year in volume. "The U.S. market is the French market 40 years ago," he says. Indeed, in spite of the stockmarket crash, mineral water businesses are continuing to attract prices of two and a half times sales in the U.S. On that basis, Perrier's U.S. operations alone are valued at about \$1.25 billion.

Unlike other leading French food and drink groups, Perrier has never been tempted by large-scale diversification. It has a leading position in the Roquefort and French vintage blue cheese market, but otherwise Mr. Leven has always regarded mineral water as the group's core business.

He explains that large volumes are crucial in the bottled water market, and he expects it to grow even faster in coming years as consumers become increasingly health- and pollution-conscious. "There is never any recession in the mineral water market," says Mr. Leven. "Even at times of economic crisis, demand for mineral water continues to expand normally."

Mr. Leven remains very much in charge of the company's lean management: "Decisions are taken in five minutes and no-one spends any money without my approval," he says. He scoffs at recent takeover rumours. Control of the company is now shared by Mr. Leven, with just more than 25 per cent of shares, and the Exor group, with about 25 per cent. Exor, a holding company controlled by the Metzopoulos family — a French-based family with interests in vineyards and property — reached an agreement with Mr. Leven about four years ago to keep control of the company stable and secure.

Mr. Leven has also sought to ensure long-term shareholder loyalty by generous dividends and a determination not to dilute equity by a string of paper acquisitions — Financial Times.

Space workers struggling two years after Challenger disaster

By Matt Spetalnick
Reuter

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida — Two years after the spaceship Challenger exploded in a fireball, officials at the Kennedy Space Centre are still picking up the pieces of America's shuttle programme.

But officials in Washington say President Reagan plans to propose reviving the U.S. space programme with a mission to Mars, the creation of a moon base and joint U.S.-Soviet space exploration.

This week marks the second anniversary of the worst known disaster in the history of manned space flight, an explosion that destroyed Challenger 73 seconds after lift-off on January 28, 1986 and killed all seven astronauts aboard.

Two years later, the shuttle fleet is still grounded, managers complain they lack workers to meet the new launch schedule, key administrators have been fired or demoted and experts criticise the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) approach to safety.

Administration sources expect Reagan to ask Congress to support an ambitious new policy to re-establish America as the leader in space exploration.

They say Reagan, who leaves office one year from now, plans

to answer critics who accuse him of indecision in reviving and rechartering U.S. goals in space. NASA officials say the president hoped to propose a joint U.S.-Soviet mission when he visits Moscow this spring.

At the space centre, officials contend that morale has bounced back but space centre workers privately say that morale took another dive this month when NASA announced another delay in the resumption of shuttle flights until mid-July or August.

It was the latest in a series of postponements and some NASA managers believe the launch may not take place before the third anniversary of the Challenger disaster.

NASA officials say the frequent delays have been most frustrating for the astronauts, a number of whom have quit.

"It's a lot more fun flying by sitting behind a desk," said Robert Crippen, who piloted the first shuttle flight. "The amount of time it's taking is depressing."

Yet Kennedy Space Centre is bustling with activity as workers gear up for a series of pre-launch tests.

All 2,200 workers laid off in the aftermath of the Challenger tragedy have been recalled and crews are working round the clock to prepare the shuttle Discovery for liftoff.

The space centre's managers

participated in the decision — later branded as "flawed" by a presidential commission — that sent the Challenger on its flight to disaster. Investigators blamed the accident on a faulty booster rocket joint.

"Absolutely nothing will erase this from our memories," said Charles Gay, director of shuttle operations.

In its final report in June 1986, the Challenger commission concluded that quality control at the space centre had eroded to the point of ineffectiveness.

In an effort to restore public confidence, NASA officials have taken dramatic steps to improve shuttle safety.

New Director Forrest McCarney, a retired air force general, ordered the retraining of all space centre workers. Some 100,000 pages of technical procedures detailing everything from changing lightbulbs to refurbishing the shuttle's engines were rewritten.

But serious problems still remain. There is a severe shortage of quality control engineers and space centre officials say they will be unable to meet this year's schedule of three shuttle flights unless a NASA hiring freeze is lifted.

Managers complain that the agency's new emphasis on safety has buried them beneath an avalanche of paperwork.

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The Challenger disaster, in which seven U.S. astronauts lost their lives when their shuttle blew up seconds after take-off, has enabled the Soviet Union to catch up in reusable spacecraft research.

While the launch of the new U.S. shuttle Discovery has been put back until August, tests on a Soviet shuttle, similar in design to the U.S. version, have got under way.

Alexei Leonov, deputy head of Soviet Cosmonaut Training Programme told the East German news agency ADN earlier this month that "horizontal flights" of the new craft had been started and were showing good results.

Soviet space officials say the current long missions have the practical purpose of finding out how cosmonauts would cope with a 30-month flight to Mars.

Vladimir Shatalov, director of the Soviet Cosmonaut Training Programme, said studies were under way on the need to create artificial gravity conditions in one section of the spacecraft to prepare cosmonauts for a Mars landing.

This would be achieved by



Challenger arcs skyward in a seemingly normal lift-off just seconds before the January 1986 disaster (file photo)

manned or unmanned.

An experiment last month, when Soviet test pilot Anatoly Levchenko was put immediately behind the controls of a conventional plane on touchdown after a week aboard Mir, was linked by space analysts to the Soviet shuttle programme.

Levchenko was the first Soviet shuttle pilot.

Despite the latest advances, ordinary Soviet citizens appeared to doubt that the United States would be out of the race for long.

"They'll catch up, probably in about five years. We're ahead now, then it will be their turn for a bit," was how one middle-aged Muscovite put it.

"They have better technology, but our scientific skills are no worse, and sometimes we manage to do things more simply, with results that are as good," he added.

Another man, in his thirties, took a similar view: "We give each other ideas — they gave us the shuttle, while we'll give them ideas for space stations," he said.

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Maradona keeps Napoli on course for 2nd title

Napoli crushes Milan

ITALY (Agencies) — Diego Maradona employed his rarely-used right foot to startle effect Sunday when he scored a fine second goal for Napoli as they maintained a three-point lead over AC Milan at the top of the Italian First Division.

The Argentine World Cup-winning captain struck a minute before the interval after Brazilian international striker Careca had opened the scoring for Napoli in the 12th minute.

Maradona's goal, in a 2-0 win, ensured his place as Italy's top scorer with nine goals ahead of team-mate Careca on seven and helped keep Napoli on course for a second Italian title win.

Apart from Milan, who struggled to beat Pisa 1-0, Roma were the only other team in the top six to win — a situation which prompted the daily sports paper *La Gazzetta Dello Sport* to declare: "The championship has two tyrants... Napoli-Milan, the march of the giants."

European footballer of the year Dutchman Ruud Gullit set up Milan's winner for defender Angelo Colombo.

Third-placed Roma beat Ascoli 3-0 with a penalty in each half from Giuseppe Giannini and a late goal from Stefano Desideri.

Juventus drew 1-1 at Como where Renato Buso, 19, headed them ahead and Massimo Albiero equalised. Welsh striker Ian Rush failed to repeat the form which brought him four goals against Pescara in midweek.

Real Madrid beats Valladolid
In Spain, where Real Madrid



Diego Maradona

maintained a relentless march towards the title with a 2-0 win at Real Valladolid, their great rivals Barcelona slumped again.

According to one newspaper, they "beat new records of mediocrities" as they went down at home to Osasuna, Jose Sarabia scoring the only goal.

Coch Luis Aragones returned to his duties after a bout of nervous exhaustion which he dismissed as less serious than reported. "I'm fine," he said. "But, from everything that's been said, you think I was dead."

To add to his problems — Dutchman Johan Cruyff and Briton John Toshack are among several names mentioned as his replacement — Aragones saw midfielders Bernd Schuster and Victor Munoz earn themselves automatic one-match suspensions with their fourth cautions of the season.

Real Madrid became the first team to win at Valladolid this season with goals from Martin Vasquez and Francisco "Paco" Llorente.

Real Sociedad beat sporting Gijon 3-0 to stay second ahead of Atletico Madrid on goal difference. Atletico beat Cadiz 2-1.

Portuguese leaders and World Club champions Porto stretched their lead over Benfica to seven points with a 1-0 over Academica, Fernando Gomez scoring.

West Indies trounces India

TRIVANDRUM, India (AP) — West Indies crushed India by nine wickets in the last One-day Cricket International here Monday, clinching the seven match series, 6-1.

Chasing a victory target of 240 in 45 overs, the visitors scored 241 for one wicket in 42.4 overs.

Put into bat by West Indies skipper Vivian Richards on an easy-pitched wicket, the Indians scored at will and, were at one stage, 160 for two.

But a middle-order batting collapse limited the Indians score to 230 for eight wickets.

The highlight of the Indian innings was a superb 101 by opener Krishnamachari Srikant. Patrick Patterson was the main

wicket taker claiming three for 34 runs off nine overs. Richards took two for 40 runs off eight overs.

The highlight of the West Indies innings was an unbeaten 104 by Phil Simmons and a solid 84 by Gordon Greenidge.

Ritchie Richardson pitched in with 37.

South Australia snatches victory

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) — Captain David Hookes' sporting declaration paid off for South Australia on Monday when his team snatched victory against

New South Wales on the final day of their Sheffield Shield cricket match.

New South Wales were set a target of 283 runs from a minimum 100 overs when Hookes closed South Australia's second innings at Sunday night's score of 113 for three.

The gamble paid off as New South Wales were all out for 219 and South Australia recorded their second outright win of the season and first at home.

Australian spin bowler Peter Sleep and World Cup paceman Andrew Zeeser produced their best form to clean up the last four New South Wales wickets for only 26 runs.

Broncos — more than a one-man threat

DENVER (AP) — For all the pre-Super Bowl hype about the Denver Broncos being a one-man team, there is a voice of reason that says otherwise.

Actually, there are two such voices, one belonging to Broncos offensive line coach Alex Gibbs, and the other to offensive tackle Dave Studdard.

Quarterback John Elway cannot weave his magic without help, they say.

Gibbs says flatly the outcome of Super Bowl game next Sunday will hinge on how well the Broncos' offensive line controls the Washington Redskins' two fine defensive ends, Dexter Manley and Charles Mann.

"That's the game," he said. "If we can control them, then we've got a chance. If we don't, we're

going to get beat."

Studdard, who will be blocking against Manley most of the game, said, "If I don't do a good job on Dexter, it will be a long day for John."

The Redskins devised a workable defensive scheme in the National Football Conference Championship game, first containing the scrambling of Minnesota quarterback Wade Wilson and then sacking him eight times.

Denver figures the Redskins will do much of the same in the Super Bowl, bringing Manley and Mann hard on the outside to keep Elway in the pocket, and then sending tackles Dave Butz and Darryl Grant up the middle. Elway tends to be most dangerous when he can get outside and buy time to find a receiver, often for a big play.

Studdard says Manley has linebacker speed. "He's like (Chris) Doleman of Minnesota. He's like a big stand-up linebacker. He's got all that speed and he's strong as hell. I can't believe he didn't make the pro bowl this year."

Studdard says he will be working against Manley "most of the day, except when they do some twist and bring Mann on the outside. He's an awfully good player, too."

A nine-year veteran from Texas, Studdard will know how well he has fared with Manley. "Dexter is a talker, and he wants to jump all over the place and point his finger at people," Studdard says. "He shows off when he's having his way. If he's doing a lot of showboating, it will mean I'm not doing my job. I need to keep him quiet."

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Budd wins 1st competition race

OXFORD, England (R) — Former world cross country champion Zola Budd, bidding for a place in England's team at the World Championships in March, won her first competitive race of the season Sunday.

South African-born Budd, champion in 1985 and 1986, has said she wants to go to the championships in Auckland despite a warning by New Zealand that she will not be welcome and the threat of anti-apartheid demonstrations.

Her appearance at the Oxfordshire League Cross Country Championships Sunday was kept secret from other competitors until they lined up at the start.

Budd, who has been hampered by a hamstring injury and has not run a major race since the European Championships in Stuttgart in September 1986, won the three-mile race in 20 minutes 19 seconds.

"It was a good preparation for the international cross country trials at Gateshead Saturday," she said afterwards. "I really enjoyed the run but the course was very muddy."

Budd was granted British citizenship in 1984, raising protests from anti-apartheid groups.

Earlier this month, the Commonwealth Games Federation tightened up its nationality rules, extending the minimum period of residency required before an athlete can compete for a new country.

The federation was told New Zealand would not welcome Budd's participation at Auckland, which is the site of the next Commonwealth Games in 1990.

Safety council blasts Tyson-Holmes fight

LONDON (AP) — Mike Tyson's fourth-round heavyweight title victory over Larry Holmes was criticised Monday by the British Safety Council as "an exercise in sadism and brain damage to the glory of the almighty dollar."

In a telegram to the independent broadcasting authority, council director general James Tye said televising the Friday night bout from Atlantic City, New Jersey, had violated "promises to reduce violence on our (television) screens."

"Not a single boxing expert or correspondent anywhere in the world had the slightest doubt that Tyson would beat Holmes. 17 years his senior," Tye, one of Britain's loudest anti-boxing voices, said. "Indeed, the only question was how badly Holmes would be beaten..."

"This was never a true boxing contest, rather it was an exercise in sadism and brain damage to the glory of the almighty dollar and 73 other currencies."

Tyson floored Holmes, a former world heavyweight champion making a comeback at age 38, three times in the fourth round of their scheduled 12-round fight.

Roche in memorial race

GRISY-LES-PLATRES, France (R) — Tour de France champion Stephen Roche and other leading racers competed in a Cyclo-Cross event Sunday in memory of French cyclist Pascal Jules, who died in a car accident last October aged 26.

American Greg Lemond and Frenchman Laurent Fignon, who preceded the Irishman as Tour de France victors, were also among the competitors in the tribute race.

The event was won by French amateur Cyclo-Cross champion Bruno Lebras.

Johnson clocks world-best mark in 60-metre race

SHERBROOKE, Quebec (AP)

Sprinter Ben Johnson, the Associated Press male athlete of the year, came within a whisker of shattering a world-best mark and suffering a potentially serious injury in a 60-metre race at the University of Sherbrooke Indoor Track Meet Sunday.

Johnson, who holds almost every sprint record, fell .06 seconds short of tying his world mark of 6.41, but it was the end of the race that provided the most excitement and a brief moment of concern.

As he crossed the finish line, the momentum of the Toronto sprinter carried him up the incline of the track and he tumbled over some padding that protected the runners from hitting the railing.

Johnson fell over the barrier and landed on the floor, a drop of about five feet (1.5 metres).

"I grabbed onto the curtain — that's what helped," said Johnson, referring to the net-like

material beyond the railing. "If I hadn't done that, I might have landed on my neck and got hurt pretty badly."

In bracing himself for the fall, Johnson said he numbed his finger while grabbing the curtain and slightly hurt his back when he landed on the floor.

The incident, which brought

gasps from the crowd, some of whom gathered around Johnson, almost obscured the race.

After one false start, Johnson did not get his usual burst from the starting line, a setback that he attributed to a race official warning him to keep his hands closer to his body. Johnson normally likes to use a wider stance, with his hands sometimes coming close to spreading into the other lane.

For almost 45 metres, Brian Cooper, in the lane beside Johnson, was at his side, but the American sprinter was left behind by a Johnson burst, finishing .05 behind, in 6.52.

Hjartarson, Short and Yusupov score victories in 1st round of World Chess Championship

SAINT JOHN, New Brunswick (AP) — Johann Hjartarson of Iceland, England's Nigel Short and Artur Yusupov of the Soviet Union scored crushing victories in the first round of the World Chess Championship Candidates Matches Sunday.

The other four games were

drawn, including the one played by Yasser Seirawan, the United States' top player. Seirawan fought back from an apparently hopeless position against English grandmaster Jonathan Speelman.

The biggest shock of the round came when 24-year-old Hjartarson, a Soviet defector who now plays for Switzerland.

After falling into a trap, Seirawan, who comes from Seattle, lost a rook for a knight at move 15, but gained compensation when Speelman chose a bad plan in middle-game complications.

in his favourite opening and Hjartarson played like a hero," said former world champion Boris Spassky.

The winner of the candidates series will challenge world champion Garry Kasparov for his title in 1990.

The victory in the six-game matches will later join former world champion Anatoly Karpov in a knock-out event to decide the challenge.

Nigel Short, 22, the sixth ranked player in the world, outplayed Hungarian grandmaster Gyula Sax, while Artur Yusupov easily defeated fellow Soviet Jan Ehlvest to move into early leads.

After falling into a trap, Seirawan, who comes from Seattle, lost a rook for a knight at move 15, but gained compensation when Speelman chose a bad plan in middle-game complications.

"Korchnoi was made to suffer

game coach Jan. 3, has beaten the Sixers twice in five days.

Lakers 116, Sonics 109

Magic Johnson scored 34 points and James Worthy added 24 points and 12 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers snapped the Seattle SuperSonics' 17-game homecourt winning streak with a 116-109 victory.

Seattle lost despite Xavier McDaniel's 35 points and 32 by Tom Chambers. Seattle's home-court record fell to 18-2.

Chambers scored seven straight points late in the fourth quarter to pull the Sonics within two points with 3:53 left in the game.

Williams

paced the Nets with 24 points and 19 rebounds.

Williams

paced the Nets with 24 points and 19 rebounds.

Pacers 128, Suns 109

John Long scored 24 points and Wayman Tisdale had 19 as the Indiana Pacers took control early and coasted to a 128-109 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Rookie Reggie Miller scored 17 of 63 points by the Pacers' reserves. The Suns got only 36 points off their bench.

Indiana never trailed in the second half, moving from a 60-53

lead to 69-57 in the first four

minutes of the third quarter on a basket by Chuck Person and seven points by Long.

Bullets 131, 76ers 99

Bernard King scored 25 points, leading the Washington Bullets to their third consecutive victory.

131-99 over the Philadelphia 76ers.

King had nine points in the first period and 17 by halftime. He scored four in a key stretch early in the second quarter, when the bullets ran off 10 straight points in a 41-30 lead.

Chambers scored seven straight points late in the fourth quarter to pull the Sonics within two points with 3:53 left in the game.

Washington 7-2 overall and 6-0 at home since Wes Unseld be-

at

home since Wes Unseld be-

at

home since Wes Unseld be-

at

High level European Community team to hold financial talks in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Representatives from the European Commission and the European Investment Bank are expected to arrive in Jordan Jan. 31 to hold talks with Jordanian authorities on the use of the 100 million European Currency Units (ECUs) (approx JD 43 million) provided as grants and loans under the cooperation agreement signed in January 1977 between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the European Community.

The funds are made available from the third financial protocol, which runs from 1987 to 1991. The financial protocols form a vital component of the agreement and allow for participation in economic, technical, social and scientific cooperation between the two partners.

The European Commission team will be headed by Eberhard Rhein, director of external relations for Mediterranean, Near and Middle East countries. Pietro Pettovitch, head of external operations, will lead the team from

the European Investment Bank. The aid discussions will be held with a number of ministers and government officials. The two sides will conclude their discussions Thursday, Feb. 4, when it is intended to sign an indicative programme outlining the use of the 37 million ECU (JD 16 million) grant and the 63 million ECU (JD 27 million) loan.

Already included on the agenda are projects in irrigation, technical education, industrial cooperation, agricultural lending, water exploration, soil mapping, energy and health.

Between 1976 and 1986 the European Community has made available from two financial protocols a total of 103 million ECUs (JD 44 million) for development cooperation projects. These amounts are in addition to bilateral assistance provided to Jordan by the member States of the Community, and to assistance provided by the European Commission from outside the protocols.

Oman to boost gas exploitation

MUSCAT (AP) — Oman, a moderate non-OPEC oil producer faced with a 194 million riyal (\$300 million) budget deficit for fiscal 1988, is to step up efforts to develop its state-owned gas industry to save fuel oil, government sources said Monday.

Six million riyals (\$15 million) will be spent developing three gas production plants this year, said the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A 275,000-riyal (\$710,000) government study to be carried out over the next five months will review technical and organisational options.

The gas network powers de-

fence installations in addition to oil production and light industry, the sources noted.

The government announced earlier this month that gas reserves have risen to 9.6 trillion cubic feet, an increase of three trillion cubic feet over figures announced a year ago.

Gas consumption totalled 50 billion cubic feet last year.

Oman, which produces 565,000 barrels of oil a day, launched a gas exploration programme in 1984 when oil prices were falling. Petroleum and Minerals Minister Saeed Al Shanfari renewed Oman's pledge to coordinate with

Bahrain reports higher offshore banking assets

MANAMA (AP) — Assets of offshore banks in Bahrain, the major financial activity on the Gulf island state, had dropped by about 20 per cent two years ago but recovered at the end of last year, Bahrain's finance minister was quoted as saying Sunday.

"The banks' assets in Bahrain were \$53-\$54 billion, decreased to \$44 billion two years ago, and went up again to \$60 billion by the end of last year," said Finance Minister Ibrahim Abdul Karim in an interview published by the Saudi Arabian newspaper Arab News, also available in Manama.

Bahrain established itself as an offshore banking centre for the oil-rich Gulf after the heyday of oil prices in the 1970s. The economic recession in the region, precipitated mainly by the sagging oil market, had been accompanied by consecutive reports of pullbacks by offshore banking units, which numbered 76.

But the minister said that only two banks and three administrative units had left the country. He said the offshore banking units injected about 200 million dinars (\$520 million) into the national economy through operations, rents and training, in addition to the 10,000 dinars (\$26,000) they paid annually as "charges" to the capital.

South Yemen, long impoverished, will become a major oil exporter in about 18 months. Oil trucked from the fields is already being processed at the country's only refinery near Aden, the capital.

The financial side of the deal was not mentioned. The Soviet Union is a strong supporter of South Yemen.

The weekly said a second engineering contract for Iyad West was expected to follow soon.

A comprehensive agreement

He said a 500-million dinar (\$1.3 billion) for fiscal 1988 will soon be announced, projecting a 10 per cent deficit.

The minister estimated that oil revenues would account for 220 million to 320 million dinars (\$570 to \$830 million), while revenues from non-oil sources including 170 million dinars (\$440 million) from indirect tax, will cater for the remaining 40 per cent of the budget.

Bahrain's annual budget for the past decade has been depending on an annual \$100 million paid by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, he noted.

Bahrain was not able to benefit from fluctuations in oil prices, because of its limited production which has decreased from 76,000 barrels per day in 1972 to around 40,000 barrels per day, he said.

"Had it not been for our relationship with Saudi Arabia, we would have been in a very difficult situation now," he said.

In addition to its own oil exports, a major part of Bahrain's oil revenues comes from the processing of Gulf crude oil at the island's huge refinery.

Bahrain was the first country in the region to resort to local borrowing through treasury bills, and Abdul Karim said he would ask his government to allow him to raise the present borrowing ceiling from 100 million dinars (\$260 million) to 300 million dinars (\$780 million).

Bahrain is a member of the



Ibrahim Abdul Karim
six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), an economic and security alliance that also groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Abdul Karim told Arab News that he was not happy about the measure of financial cooperation among the six GCC states despite the numerous accomplishments in other areas.

"It is still far below my expectations," he said.

He said that on a bilateral basis, cooperation is satisfactory but within the group as a whole entity it was not. "We have liberated trade, realised the free movement of individuals and capital but have not yet unified custom charges or adopted consolidation measures for the protection of our industries."

Abdul Karim said he did not believe that the six countries would have a unified currency in the near future.

"We have to lay the ground first by consummate coordination of financial and monetary policies and the currency will automatically follow," he said.

United Gulf Bank completes restructuring, reports '87 loss

BAHRAIN (R) — United Gulf Bank (UGB) announced Sunday a 1987 loss of \$37.3 million and said it had completed a two-year restructuring to phase out commercial banking operations.

The small Bahrain-based bank, hit hard by bad loans, said as part of the restructuring it had sold all its Latin American debt in the international market.

"These measures have not been without significant cost, but the bank is now in a much stronger position to pursue its investment strategies," he said.

Gross operating revenue before provisions or extraordinary items fell from \$14.4 million in 1986 to \$11.7 million last year.

Infrastructure cost Arab Gulf states \$150 billion in ten years

MANAMA (OPECNA) — The six member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have invested more than \$150 billion on infrastructure over the past 10 years. A study prepared by the Gulf International Bank here said that GCC states would be able to tide over the current cycle of economic stagnation. The report added that the completion of infrastructural projects and the use of available resources had also helped in reducing the volume of GCC imports. It noted that the GCC non-oil sector was expected to record a reasonable growth level over the next few years. The study expected the contribution of the industrial sector to gross national product to increase from eight per cent at present to 10 per cent in the next two years.



"I gave your meat loaf to a dog. He forced a cat to eat it."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet forms team to AESC talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet decided in a session Sunday to form the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the fourth session of the Arab Economic and Social Council (AESC) scheduled to be held in Tunis from Feb. 1-4. The delegation would be headed by Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Tabba' with the membership of secretary-general Mohammad Saqqaf and other ministry officials.

Loans to Jordanian private sector rise

AMMAN (J.T.) — Credit facilities offered by Jordanian banks and financial institutions to the private sector in Jordan from January to September 1987 amounted to JD 1,789,738,000 compared to JD 1,596,725,000 in the same period of 1986, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ). The bulletin said that the CBJ alone granted credit facilities amounting to JD 5.16 million against JD 4,212 million in the previous year. According to the bulletin, the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) offered farmers JD 29.85 million during the same period, up from JD 27,564 million in the same period of 1986.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carol Highter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Do some things to increase your attractiveness as well as your possessions early in the day. If you have an opportunity to become involved in any new financial obligations, be sure to consider them carefully.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) If you spend any money this morning, do so carefully. Make sure your car is in good running order before you drive anywhere tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Do whatever is necessary to improve your health. Some reliable friends can help you greatly in handling some practical affairs.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Help out a friend who is having a hard time, but keep anything which transpires confidential. Be kind and considerate to your mate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Avoid an acquaintance who is showing this morning, or your mood will be sour. Smile more and your problems ease.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) If you get involved in any credit or civic matters today, be sure to keep your wits about you. Be appreciative of some help from a superior.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't be taken in by a flashy

newcomer; this person has your worst interests in mind. Arrange tomorrow's schedule tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Avoid a business acquaintance who may feel cheated in some way, and later all will be cleared up nicely. Don't be harsh with your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get an early start this morning and arrange a time to have a discussion with an associate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to make your surroundings at work more pleasant and efficient with the help of a co-worker. Enjoy the home life tonight.

TAURUS (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) This morning is a good time to plan future entertainment, but cut down on expenses this evening. Show your mate how you've been saving.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Please to make your home more attractive this morning. Be sure to stay within your budget while shopping this evening.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be sure you are on time for any early appointments, so you can gain greater benefits. Drive very carefully this evening.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were drifting at their lows in what dealers described as "seriously low" levels of trading. An early advance on Wall Street gave institutional investors little incentive to enter the market, dealers said.

By 1532 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 13.6 to its low of 1,757.3. Volume recorded by the stock exchange automated quotation system (SEAQ) was 205.2 million shares at 1500 GMT.

"The really big players don't seem convinced this market's going to rise enough in the short term," one dealer said. Others suggested some institutional cash found its way into government bonds, which Monday have risen by more than half a point.

Turnover by Monday afternoon is roughly half the average of around 410 million share volume seen last week. "There's no way volume is going to double between now (1500 GMT) and when the SEAQ mandatory quote period (MQP) ends," one dealer said.

Share volume reported via SEAQ is measured between the 0900 GMT to 1700 GMT MOP when market makers are obliged to deal at prices shown on their SEAQ screens.

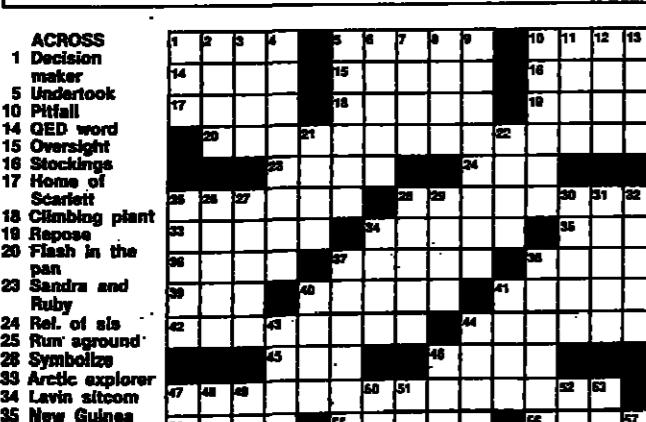
LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.775/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.295/2805	Canadian dollar
	1.673/848	Deutschmarks
	1.880/111	Dutch guilders
	1.357/080	Swiss francs
	34.94/97	Belgian francs
	5,640/030	French francs
	1230/1231	Italian lire
	127.65/75	Japanese yen
	6,010/050	Swedish crowns
	6,370/050	Norwegian crowns
One ounce of gold	6,420/050	Danish crowns
	476.70/477.20	U.S. dollars

THE Daily Crossword

by Evelyn Benshoof



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

21	19	17	15	13
20	18	16	14	12
22	24	26	28	30
23	25	27	29	31
24	26	28	30	32

ACROSS
1. Doctor
5. Undertook
10. Pitfall
14. QED word
15. Oversight
17. Home of
18. Scarlet
19. Climbing plant
20. Repose
22. Flash in the
23. Sandra and
24. Ruby
25. Rel. of a
26. Fur ground-
27. Symbolizes
28. Arctic explorer
29. Levin sitcom
30. New Guinea
31. Sports
32. Author
33. Eggnog
34. Dido
35. Statistics
36. Lettuce
37. Measure
38. Deck type
39. Customers
40. Tab
41. Relaxing spot
42. Geotactic
43. For galaxies
44. Command
45. Narrow furrow
46. Alliance
47. Letters
48. Object of
49. Worship
50. Cursive
51. Fused
52. Drudge
53. Prong
54. Light signal
55. Western
56. Slang
57. Month
58. Metric
59. Quality
60. Cloth strainer
61. Minor
62. Spread
63. Ermine
64. Time period
65. Wager
66. Action
67. Import
68. Agric. garment
69. Pattern
70. Fused
71. Curious songs
72. Roman
73. Damned

DOWN
1. Wager
2. Action
3. Import
4. Agric. garment
5. Pattern
6. Fused
7. Curious songs
8. Roman
9. Damned

Andy Capp



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RTTA		

<tbl_r cells="3" ix="2" maxcspan="1" maxrspan="1"

Ortega willing to yield power if people wished

NEW YORK (R) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has written an unusual five-page letter to President Reagan promising to give up power if that is the people's will, the New York Times reported Monday.

Ortega also said his government would reduce the size of Nicaragua's army, expel Soviet and Cuban military advisers and prohibit any foreign military bases if Nicaragua and the United States can come to an agreement, the newspaper said.

"Mr. President, with all due respect, allow me to remind you that democracy is and always has been the objective of our revolution," the Times quotes Ortega as writing.

"Full democratisation likewise means the holding of local and national elections. Obviously democracy also means respecting the outcome of those elections, including turning over the reins of power to the opposition, if that is what the people wish."

The letter was delivered to the U.S. State Department Friday night but Elliot Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, told the Times in an interview Sunday he did not think Reagan had seen it yet.

Abrams cited a statement Friday by Comandante Bayardo Arce, a top Sandinista Party leader, that the ruling party "will never give up power" and a similar one by Ortega a few weeks

earlier. Abrams called the letter to Reagan "less than fully persuasive."

Nicaraguan officials have acknowledged the letter was part of a broad strategy to seek an end to U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan contra rebels, the Times said.

Reagan will make a new request for contra aid this week, believed to be far below the \$270 million that administration officials talked about last year. Congress is to vote on the request on Feb. 3.

The Times described the letter as remarkable for its nonbelligerent, almost pleading tone.

"Mr. President, too many people have died," the paper quoted Ortega as writing. "If you were to end your inefficient policy of power, you would see Nicaragua move even more quickly toward democratisation."

The Times reported Ortega as writing: "It is not only possible for our two countries to coexist, it is possible to be friends, even partners. This is my government's and my own personal, profound desire."

Meanwhile Nicaraguan government troops searched dense jungles Monday for survivors from a

cargo plane shot down after it air-dropped weapons to U.S.-backed contra rebels, officials said.

Photographers flown by helicopter to the wreckage saw the charred remains of two crew members killed when the plane was hit by a surface-to-air missile Saturday night, some 200 kilometres south east of Managua.

"The sky turned red in the east and everyone ran out of their homes," said Manuela la Ponce, a San Carlos resident.

Opposition leader Mohammad Akhataruzzaman told reporters: "We have accounted for 11 dead bodies so far but police have burned four bodies to destroy the evidence."

The opposition said riot police had opened fire on thousands of people and some prominent opposition leaders were among the wounded.

Chittagong, a city of 2.5 million people and the main port in Bangladesh, was virtually paralysed Monday by an eight-hour protest strike called by the opposition. Roads were deserted and shops and offices closed.

Military officials said two bodies were also found inside the wreckage of the DC-6 cargo plane, some 40 kilometres east of San Carlos in thick jungle close to the Costa Rican border.

A third man, Alejandro Sanchez Herrera, 25, survived the crash and was captured by the troops of the left-wing Sandinista government.

Bangladesh death toll climbs to 15

DHAKA (R) — Opposition parties accused police Monday of shooting dead at least 15 people and wounding 300 when they opened fire at anti-government demonstrators tried to hold a rally in southern Bangladesh at the weekend.

The Home Ministry said the trouble started because the protesters attempted to defy the law by staging the rally in Chittagong Sunday and attacked police with hand grenades and guns.

It said eight people were killed and at least 100, including some police, were injured.

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Shultz leads drive for INF approval in Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George Shultz is the first witness in President Ronald Reagan's drive for Senate approval of a treaty with the Soviet Union to abolish intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

The treaty, signed last month at the superpower summit in Washington, has the endorsement of the West European allies, Vice President George Bush, Senate Republican leader Bob Dole and all the Democratic candidates for president.

The Pentagon chief was expected to be questioned on the impact of the U.S. missile withdrawal on Western Europe and what the United States might do to sell the pact to the Armed Services Committee.

But a determined band of conservatives led by Sen. Jesse Helms will try to amass the 34 votes required to kill the treaty by denying it a two-thirds Senate majority.

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Shultz leads drive for INF approval in Senate

termed that Senate opponents of the treaty could attach amendments that would imperil the accord by requiring a reopening of U.S.-Soviet negotiations.

While Shultz makes a case for the treaty before the Foreign Relations Committee, Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci will try to sell the pact to the Armed Services Committee.

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COLUMNS 7 & 8

Fergie expecting a baby

LONDON (R) — Britain's Duchess of York, wife of Queen Elizabeth's second son Andrew, is expecting a baby in August, Buckingham Palace said Monday. The announcement ended weeks of speculation in the British press that the red-haired former Sarah Ferguson, known by her popular nickname Fergie, was pregnant. "The Duke and Duchess of York are very pleased to announce that the Duchess of York is expecting a baby in August," said a spokeswoman for Buckingham Palace. Queen Elizabeth's official residence in London. She said the duchess hoped to continue public engagements until the beginning of June. Prince Andrew and Sarah were married in July 1986. The duchess, 28, has become one of the most popular members of the royal family. She has maintained an action-packed life-style that included learning how to fly aeroplanes and helicopters like her husband, a pilot in the Royal Navy.

Broadway shows dominate London awards

LONDON (AP) — *Follies*, Stephen Sondheim's poignant Broadway musical from 1971, was named best musical of 1987 at the Laurence Olivier Awards. *Serious money*, Carol Churchill's savage comedy running on Broadway, was named best play in the United States. *The Armed Services Committee* has an advisory role.

The INF accord requires the elimination of all U.S. and Soviet missiles with a range of 300 to 3,000 miles (500 to 5,000 kilometres).

N. Korea retaliates against U.S. with diplomatic sanctions

TOKYO (R) — North Korea announced tit-for-tat diplomatic sanctions against the United States Monday in retaliation for Washington's decision to brand Pyongyang a terrorist state.

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, said Pyongyang would bar Americans from entering the country and refuse to negotiate with Washington for the return of the remains of U.S. soldiers killed during the Korean War.

"As a retaliatory step against the United States ... we will refrain from meeting American diplomats in the international arena," KCNA quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying.

Last week, Washington tightened visa controls and banned

90 killed, 60 injured in Chinese train accident

ported by the official media about 20 hours later. The cause was not disclosed.

Troops and police were sent to the site of the accident, more than 300 kilometres from the nearest major town, to maintain order and ferry the injured to hospital.

Railways Minister Ding Guangen rushed to the scene of the crash and has apologised for the accident, the official New China News Agency said.

The accident occurred early Sunday morning and was re-

Kabul troops withdraw from Khost road

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan government forces have withdrawn from most of the Gardez-Khost Highway, scene of a well-publicised battle to break a rebel siege at the end of 1987, according to Radio Kabul.

The official radio, monitored in Islamabad, said Sunday that the move was made to allow members of the Jadrani tribe who had fled the area during the fighting to return to their homes.

The Soviet-backed government hoped to keep the 125-kilometre road open through negotiations with the local people, it said, quoting a government statement.

But it warned the anti-Communist guerrillas who had closed the road for more than eight years that the government would deal decisively with them if they blocked the highway again.

The state-run Radio Kabul quoted Najib as saying that the Afghan delegation to the U.N.-

sponsored talks will take part "as always with necessary flexibility of good faith and political good will and in the hope that this round of talks will be the last and lead to fundamental achievements."

The U.N. undersecretary-general for political affairs has been conducting shuttle diplomacy and mediating between representatives of the Afghan and Pakistani governments in indirect negotiations in Geneva since 1982.

The next round of talks is slated for February.

Radio Kabul said Najib also explained "once again, the Republic of Afghanistan's unchanged position regarding the normalisation of the situation around Afghanistan and ensuring peace in the region."

Soviet population rises to 284.5 million

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet population rose to 284.5 million at the start of 1988, and the average Soviet citizen can now expect to live 69.6 years, TASS has said. The official Soviet News Agency said the average life expectancy had risen by almost two years, but did not say over what time period. Average life expectancy for Americans is more than 71 years. Western specialists attribute the lower Soviet figure to living conditions that have traditionally been harsher, fatal industrial accidents, alcoholism, a colder climate and other factors. The Soviet life expectancy statistic was once regarded as so sensitive it could not be published. In May, the weekly magazine *Ogonyok* reported that "toward the end of the 1970s... the average life expectancy of men fell to 62 years." It said the downward trend was halted, then reversed in the early 1980s.

Man dies after fall from opera balcony

NEW YORK (R) — An elderly man who dove backwards to his death off the top balcony of the Metropolitan Opera during a performance of Verdi's *Macbeth*, was an avid opera-goer who lived only a block away. "Everybody at the Metropolitan Opera knew him," a police spokesman said after a 78-year-old Bantchevski fell 80 feet from the railing of the fifth balcony of the opera house into the empty orchestra seats below. "He just went over just like he was doing a back dive," said opera-goer Marjorie Woodburn of Brooklyn, New York. Audience members shrieked, but no one else was seriously hurt. Ushers and opera enthusiasts said Bantchevski was a regular opera-goer who they believed was also a singing coach, but he had been acting strangely earlier in the performance. During the first intermission, he had been sitting on the edge of the balcony, rocking back and forth, witnesses said. "He seemed disoriented to me," said Woodburn, adding that ushers had repeatedly pulled him from the railing. But in the intermission after the second act, he fell. "I saw him sprawled out between seats in the orchestra," said Joe Panarello, an English teacher and opera lover.

\$30 mistake nets \$10m lottery

COLUMBIA, Illinois (R) — A \$30 mistake won bartender Sue Zera \$10 million in the Illinois State Lottery. Zera, 47, who tends bar at Ollie's Tavern, mispunched 50 lottery tickets for a regular customer and had to pay for them herself when the customer refused to accept them. One of the tickets, which cost her \$30 after she sold off 20 tickets to friends, turned up a winner and she will receive \$387,500 a year for the next 20 years after taxes are deducted. Zera said she would try to continue working at Ollie's for while. "I'm too young to retire," she said. "I think I'll continue to work at least as long as the public will let me." As for any plans for spending the money, Zera said that she had yet to give it much thought but did know of a couple of immediate purchases. "One granddaughter will get the teeth braces she needs," Zera said. "And the other one — well both of them can go to college if they want to."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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EACH TRICK IN EACH TIME

Both vulnerable; North deals

NORTH

- ♦ 8 2
- ♦ J 6 5 2
- ♦ A 10 9 8
- ♦ A 9 4

WEST

- EAST
- ♦ K Q J 9
- ♦ 10 4
- ♦ 7 4 2
- ♦ 10 6 5 3

SOUTH

- ♦ A 10 5 3
- ♦ A 9 7 3
- ♦ 6 5
- ♦ K 9

The bidding:

North East South West

1 2 Pass 1 7 Pass

2 2 Pass 3 NT Pass

4 7 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

You can often tell whether a player is a tenderfoot or an expert by when he wins a trick. The tyro tends to grab his tricks at the first opportunity, whereas the pro is not afraid to surrender tricks early to keep control of the hand.

South's jump to three no trump showed the equivalent of an opening bid with only four hearts, and was designed to protect against the possibility that his partner had raised with three-card support. With a sound opening bid, four

Aquino urges voters to reject rebel-controlled candidates

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corazon Aquino appealed to voters to reject candidates controlled by Communist rebels as Filipinos in five violence-plagued provinces voted in delayed local elections Monday.

Polls were open from 7 a.m. (2300 GMT) until 4 p.m. (0800 GMT) in the Luzon provinces of Ilocos Sur, Abra, Quezon and Ifugao, and in Maguindanao Island. Significant results were not expected before Tuesday.

No serious incidents were reported on election day in the affected provinces. But the military said a gubernatorial candidate in Abra province, retired Brig.-Gen. Enstacio Purugganan, and council candidate Victoria Bringas escaped injury when suspected Communist rebels fired on their car late Sunday near the municipal hall in the town of Penaranda.

About 2,000 troops were deployed in the five provinces, where up to 1.25 million people were expected to cast ballots.

Troops in full battle gear paraded the streets of Vigan City, 335 kilometres north of Manila, as well as in other towns in Ilocos Sur province. The military said helicopter gunships were placed on standby in case of attacks by Communist rebels.

Aquino's opponents had sought unsuccessfully to have the election nullified, claiming the

former colonel used threats and force to win votes.

In her weekly radio programme Sunday, Aquino urged voters to reject candidates who had given in to rebel pressure. The military claimed many candidates had bought "safe conduct passes" from the guerrillas to ensure their safety while campaigning.

It is important for us to send as many of our forces as possible to those troubled areas so they will be in a better position to provide protection, not only for the candidates but also to ensure that the people will be able to vote in a free and orderly manner," Aquino said.

The man nominated to be the new Philippines' defence secretary said Monday that a key to defeating the Communist insurgency was to improve life for Filipinos by providing them with basic services.

Gen. Fidel Ramos made the remarks during ceremonies at Camp Crame, where Gen. Renato De Villa transferred command of the Philippine Constabulary to Maj.-Gen. Ramon Montano. The constabulary is the nation's internal security force.

As part of the top-level military shake-up, De Villa is to succeed Ramos as Armed Forces Chief of Staff in ceremonies scheduled for Tuesday. Ramos has been nominated as defence secretary, succeeding Rafael Ileto, who

announced his resignation last Thursday.